

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 15014 201505Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

RSR-01 /129 W

----- 000335

O 201310Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6183

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CDR USSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO SAIGON //AOSOP-OR//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 15014

E.O. 11652: GDS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 15014 201505Z

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 13-19, 1973

1. SUMMARY: IN THE MAJOR CONTINUING FIGHTING WEST OF KONTUM, GVN FORCES

FOUGHT THEIR WAY INTO TRUNG NGHIA DURING THE WEEK AND HELD ON. THIS HELPED ACCOUNT FOR A SLIGHT BUT STEADY INCREASE IN INCIDENTS IN MR 2. CONBAT ACTIVITY SLACKENED IN ALL OTHER REGIONS. THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN EITHER THE FPJMT OR TPJMC.

2. ASIDE FROM THE CONTINUING TALE OF FINANCIAL WOE ISSUING FROM THE CREDITORS OF THE ICCS, THE ONLY OTHER NOTE OF SUBSTANCE DURING THE WEEK WAS THAT ALL FOUR PARTIES FINALLY NOTIFIED IRAN OF THEIR APPROVAL OF THE IRANIANS AS REPLACEMENTS FOR THE CANADIANS.

3. NO PROGRESS WAS MADE DURING THE WEEK IN ACHIEVING ANY OF OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE FPJMT. THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF BUILDING CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS CONTINUES TO BE THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN FPJMT SESSIONS.

4. TPJMC NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE WEEK MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS ALTHOUGH THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATION DID AGREE TO REVERT TO THEIR PREVIOUS SCHEDULE OF ONLY ONE SESSION, FROM 100 TO 1300, ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS. THE CHIEFS' MEETINGS NOW ROUTINELY CONSIDER ONLY THREE ISSUES. THE RETURN OF PRISONERS ISSUE IS BECOMING THE SUBJECT OF PROPAGANDA POLYS WITHIN THE MEETING AS THE PRG SIDE CHARGES THE RVN SIDE WITH FAILING TO CARRY OUT THE RETURN WHILE THE RVN CLAIMS THE COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATION AT LOC NINH THREATENED THE SAFETY OF ALL CONCERNED AND THE RETURNS CANNOT BE RESUMED UNTIL THE PRG PROVIDES SAFETY GUARANTEES. THE OTHER TWO MAJOR ISSUES, DEPLOYMENT AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE CEASEFIRE, ARE BLOCKED BY MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISAGREEMENTS. THE PRG WANTS TO ESTABLISH NEW SITES IN AREAS BETWEEN THE ZONES CONTROLLED BY EACH SIDE WHILE THE RVN WANTS TO DEPLOY TO THE EXISTING SEVEN REGIONAL SITES TO DISCUSS THESE ZONES OF CONTROL. THE ISSUE HINGES ON DEFINING AREAS CONTROLLED BY MILITARY UNITS, WITH THE PRG WANTING A LINEAR BOUNDARY WHILE THE RVN WANTS A CIRCULAR AREA OF CONTROL. BOTH ISSUES ARE BASIC, AND RVN DEL OFFICERS DO NOT FORESEE ANY PROGRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAILY REPORTED CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 15014 201505Z

I CORPS DURING THE PAST WEEK FELL FROM TWENTY TO NINE. CONFLICT INCREASED IN THUA THIEN AND QUANG NAM. IN QUANG NGAI THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS HAS TAPERED OFF GRADUALLY SINCE THE SUDDEN UPSURGE OF LAST WEEK. AGAIN, MOST OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN WESTERN SON TINH DISTRICT, WHERE FRIENDLY FORCES ARE CONCENTRATED AND ACTIVE.

6. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CLIMBED SLIGHTLY BUT STEADILY IN MR 2

THROUGHOUT THE REPORTING PERIOD. RVNAF FINALLY ENTERED TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE, WEST OF KONTUM CITY AFTER TEN WEEKS OF SOLID COMBAT. FIGHTING ALSO INCREASED IN NORTHERN PLEIKU, WHERE RANGER UNITS WERE ATTACKING VC/NVA UNITS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RELIEVING PRESSURE ON TRUNG NGHIA. THE VC/NVA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SHIFT OF REINFORCEMENTS TO KONTUM BY THE RVNAF TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON GVN POSITIONS IN NORTHERN BINH DINH. MR 2 STAFF OFFICERS SPECULATED DURING THE WEEK THAT THE ENEMY MAY BE ENTERING A NEW TACTICAL PHASE IN WHICH LARGE UNIT ACTIONS WILL BE MORE COMMON-PLACE.

7. COMBAT SLACKENED SOMEWHAT IN MR 3 DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. THE LARGEST ACTION DURING THE WEEK OCCURRED IN BEN LUC DISTRICT OF LONG AN PROVINCE, APPROXIMATELY 20 KMS SOUTH-WEST OF SAIGON. RVNAF APPARENTLY CAUGHT A GROUP OF VC/NVA INFILTRATORS AND ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS; REPORTEDLY 103 COMMUNISTS KILLED AND 11 DETAINED. FIGHTING SLACKED OFF IN THE AREA OF ROUTE 1-A IN BINH DUONG/PHUOC LONG AND ROUTE 23 IN PHUOC TUY.

8. DURING THE WEEK AUGUST 15 - 21, ALL INDICATORS IN MR 4 SHOWED REDUCED MILITARY ACTIVITY ON BOTH SIDES -- WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF GVN ARTILLERY CONSUMPTION. THE FOCUS SHIFTED TO DINH TRUONG PROVINCE (MOST NOTABLY CAI LAY DISTRICT), WHERE OUTPOSTS IN WESTERN AREAS CONTINUED TO SUFFER FROM HEAVY ENEMY PRESSURE. IN CHUONG THIEN, THE VC/NVA ARE BELIEVED TO BE REGROUPING. RF TROOPS SCORED A NOTABLE VICTORY IN VINH BINH PROVINCE ON AUGUST 19, CLAIMING 69 VC KILLED. VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE DOWN FROM 258 THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO 194 FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13 -19, WHILE GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS DECREASED FROM 203 TO 179. THE CORPS CG HAS ANNOUNCED A MOVE TO CONTROL THE DELTA RICE MARKET AND BEGIN RICE ALLOCATIONS TO TROOPS AND POLICE.
MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON15014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730827/aaaaatuf.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 13-19, 1973
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005